Counseling

Degree Offered

- Master of Arts

Nature of the Program

The Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Counseling Psychology of the College of Education and Human Services offers a master’s program in counseling. The counseling M.A. program is fully accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Variations of the curriculum allow emphasis in school counseling and clinical mental health counseling. All applicants must comply with university, the College of Education and Human Services, and departmental requirements.

A degree in counseling provides a broad opportunity to work with children at the elementary-school level, adolescents at the secondary-school level, and all ages at the community level. The school counselor is involved in personal counseling, career guidance, vocational and educational counseling, family counseling, and consultation on classroom problems with teachers and administrators. Clinical mental health counselors work with all ages and populations in various community settings such as correctional facilities, treatment centers, mental health agencies, etc. Counselors must be equipped to work with both individuals and groups.

Students are encouraged to pursue their studies on a full-time basis; however, part-time students are accepted. Part-time admission is meant only for those who plan to take one or two courses a semester. If admitted with part-time status, students will NOT automatically be able to move into the full-time program. There are no summer practicum or internship placements.

Program Contact:
Edward E. Jacobs, Ph.D., Program Coordinator
Allen Hall, P.O. Box 6122

Admissions

APPLICATION

Applications for admission to the counseling program should be made to WVU's Office of Admissions. In addition to the admission requirements of the university and the College of Education and Human Services, the Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation Counseling, and Counseling Psychology has the following admission requirements:

- A baccalaureate degree with coursework in appropriate areas
- A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.8, based on a 4.0 system
- GRE scores: 290 preferred
- Three letters of reference
- Completed WVU Graduate School Application
- Completion of the departmental application (https://counseling.wvu.edu/counseling/admission/) to the counseling program

ADMISSION

The West Virginia University counseling department’s admission process is a two-step procedure:

Step 1 is a review of paper credentials including references, department application (relevant major, general quality of application), work experience, GRE scores, and GPA. The initial screening decision is based upon this information. Successful applicants are then interviewed by program faculty.

Step 2 is the department interview, which considers interpersonal style relevant to working as a counselor, communication skills, capacity for empathic understanding and communication, ability to articulate professional goals, goals congruent with department focus, knowledge, understanding of counseling, and assessment of applicants’ capacity to complete the counseling curriculum successfully.

Application deadline for fall admission is February 15 with review of completed applications beginning February 1. We only accept students once a year.

Major Requirements

All students who are candidates for a master’s in counseling are required to take the following core courses:

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUN 501</td>
<td>Counseling Theory and Techniques 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Human Appraisal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUN 536</td>
<td>Theories of Human Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
COUN 606 | Counseling Theory and Techniques 2 | 3

Select one of the following: | 3
COUN 608 | School Counseling Services * | 3
COUN 622 | Introduction to Clinical Mental Health ** | 3
COUN 609 | Group Counseling Theory and Techniques | 3
COUN 620 | Lifespan Career Counseling | 3
COUN 630 | Children/Adolescents/Parents | 3
COUN 634 | Cultural Issues | 3
COUN 640 | Addictions Counseling | 3
COUN 645 | Couples and Family Counseling | 3
COUN 664 | Ethical Issues in Counseling | 3
COUN 665 | Diagnosis and Treatment Planning | 3
COUN 668 | Crisis Trauma Grief Counseling | 3
COUN 684 | Supervision Models/Counseling | 3
COUN 685 | Practicum | 3
COUN 686 | Counseling Internship | 9
EDP 512 | Research and Evaluation in Counseling | 3

Total Hours | 60

* Required for school counselor certification only. A special school counselor certificate is available for individuals without a teaching background. The program includes an additional six hours of coursework.

** Required for clinical mental health counseling students only.

In addition to completing all coursework and the practicum and internship satisfactorily, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to assume the responsibility required of a professional counselor and the personal characteristics and ethical standards essential to effective working relationships with others.

These personal characteristics are assessed throughout the entire program with special emphasis during the clinical coursework components of the program and during the field experience. Students who do not meet professional and clinical standards in these areas are provided feedback, and resources for remediation are recommended. In these cases, successful remediation is required as a prerequisite for successful program completion. Students who violate ACA ethical standards will be evaluated for possible dismissal from the program.

**Non Education Degree Students**

Students seeking a degree in school counseling who do not have an education degree must take COUN 660 and a C&I elective.

**Certification**

Certification requirements in school counseling are the same as for the master’s of arts in counseling, except as noted below:

- A minimum grade point average of 3.0
- Recommendation of the faculty
- A valid professional teaching certification is required or the completion of a six-hour block of professional education coursework (see department for list) in addition to the sixty-hour master’s degree program
- Specialization area examination (Satisfactory performance is required for certification eligibility. This examination is administered under the auspices of the State Department of Education.)

**CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH AREA OF EMPHASIS**

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.

| COUN 622 | Introduction to Clinical Mental Health | 3 |
| COUN 685 | Practicum (Student must take a section of this course that is related to Clinical Mental Health.) | 3 |
| COUN 686 | Counseling Internship (Student must take a section of this course that is related to Clinical Mental Health.) | 3 |

Total Hours | 9
Major Learning Outcomes

Counseling

The objectives of our program in School and Clinical Mental Health Counseling are linked to our mission statement. Specifically, they are to provide:

• An environment that fosters the personal growth and development of each student.
• Educational experiences for every student that fosters individual and group counseling skill development.
• Learning opportunities to support students’ interests in diverse populations and cultures.
• Training in schools and clinical mental health settings that give students an opportunity to practice and integrate the skills learned in the classroom.